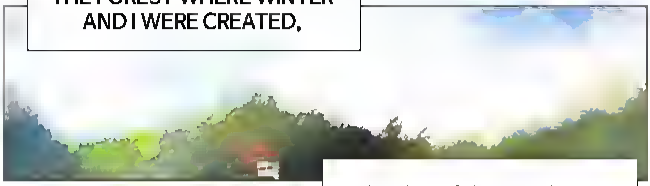
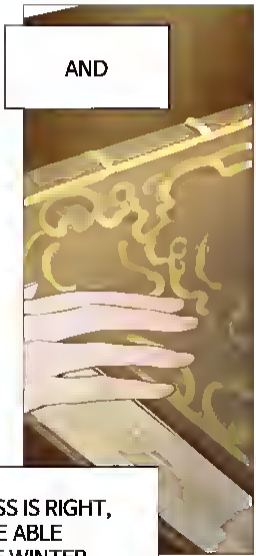
[DEEP WITHIN A FOREST IN FUSSEN, GERMANY.]

AND RETURNED TO
THE FOREST WHERE WINTER
AND I WERE CREATED,

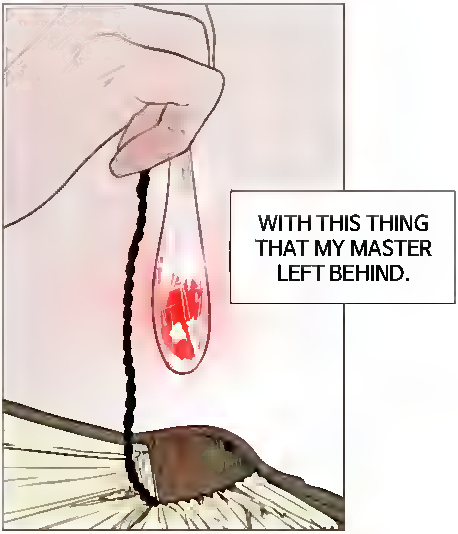


THE PLACE WHERE WE
LIVED WITH OUR MASTER.

ADORA AND I ARE
GOING TO START
A NEW LIFE HERE.



IF MY GUESS IS RIGHT,
I'LL BE ABLE
TO SAVE WINTER


WITH THIS THING THAT MY MASTER LEFT BEHIND.

WINTER.

I'LL BE ABLE TO HEAL YOU WITH THIS.
ALTHOUGH THERE'S NO TELLING HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE.

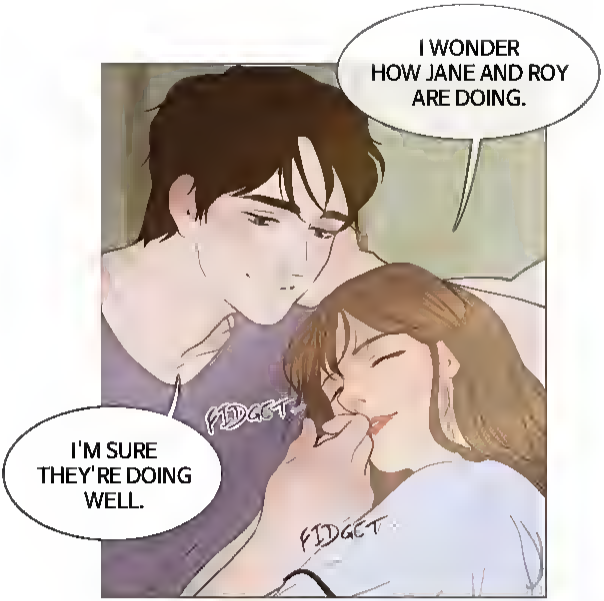
WHAT
ABOUT YOU?

IT'S SUCH A SMALL PIECE THAT IT WOULD BE HARD FOR US TO SHARE IT.
BESIDES, YOU'RE ALREADY DEFINITELY A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT, BUT I'M... PROBABLY NOT.
THEN YOU'LL NEVER...

I THINK OF IT AS A PUNISHMENT FOR THE THINGS THAT I'VE DONE
ANYWAY, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO JANE WHEN YOU GET BETTER SO JUST HANG IN THERE A BIT LONGER.

epilogue

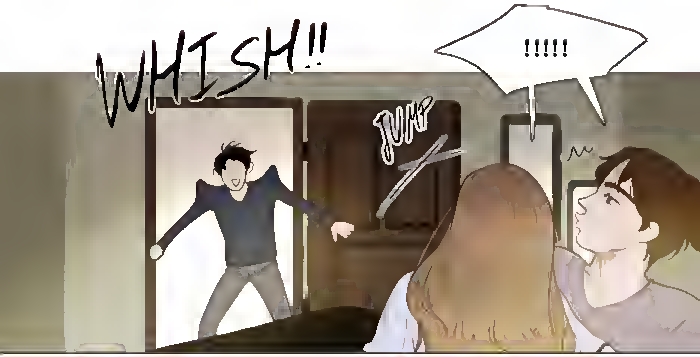
ZOE,
IT LOOKS LIKE
SPRING IS
COMING.
THE BREEZE
HAS GOTTEN
WARMER.
YEAH.


I WONDER HOW JANE AND ROY ARE DOING.
FIDGET
I'M SURE THEY'RE DOING WELL.
FIDGET

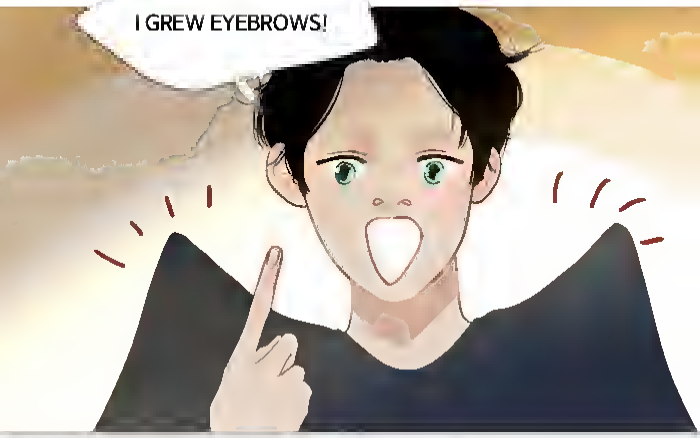
FIDGET
WHISH
DO YOU LIKE ME THAT MUCH?

OF COURSE.

SSK-


WHISH!!
!!!!!
JUMP

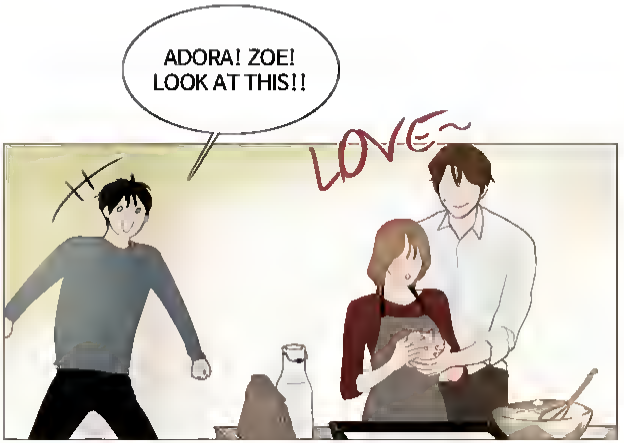
ZOE! ADORA!
LOOK AT THIS!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
I HAVE EYEBROWS
NOW!



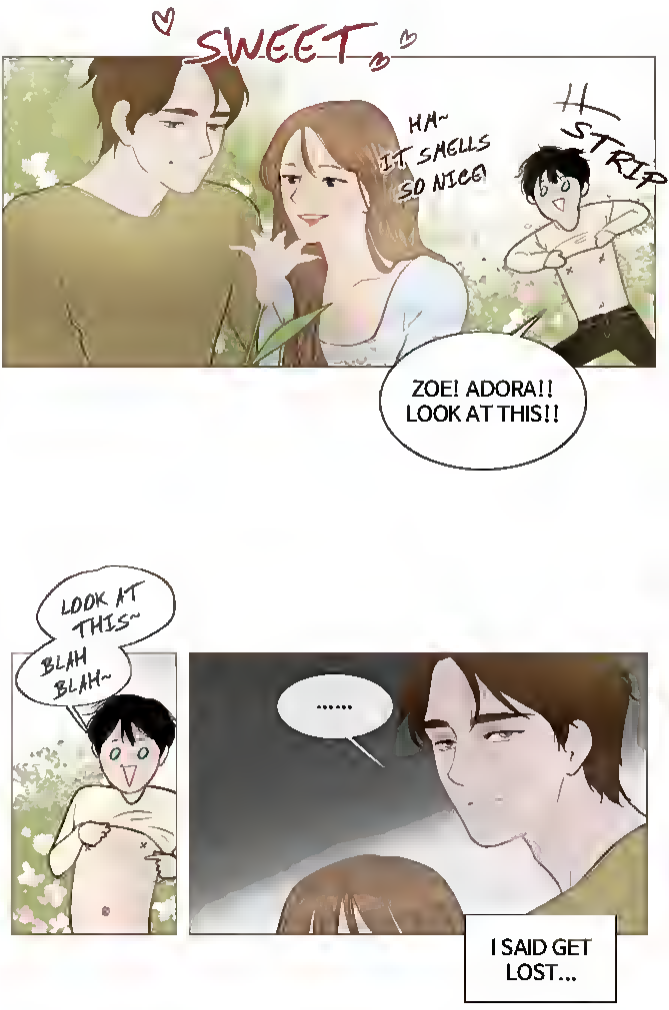
HAVING GRADUALLY
RECOVERED HIS HEALTH,

WINTER REPORTED
THE SUDDEN CHANGES
IN HIS BODY TO
US EVERY DAY.

REALLY? CONGRATULATIONS, WINTER~
CLENCH
IT WAS REALLY ANNOYING.


ADORA! ZOE!
LOOK AT THIS!!
LOVE~

EVEN
THE STITCHES
ON MY BODY ARE
GOING AWAY!
TADA-
.....
REALLY?!
THAT'S GREAT!!
GET LOST.


SWEET
HM~ IT SMELLS SO NICE!
STRIP
ZOE! ADORA!! LOOK AT THIS!!
LOOK AT THIS~ BLAH BLAH~
.....
I SAID GET LOST...

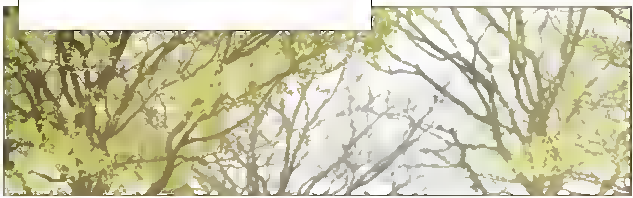
LOOK AT THIS!!
ADORA! ZOE!
.....
PLEASE JUST...
GO AWAY.

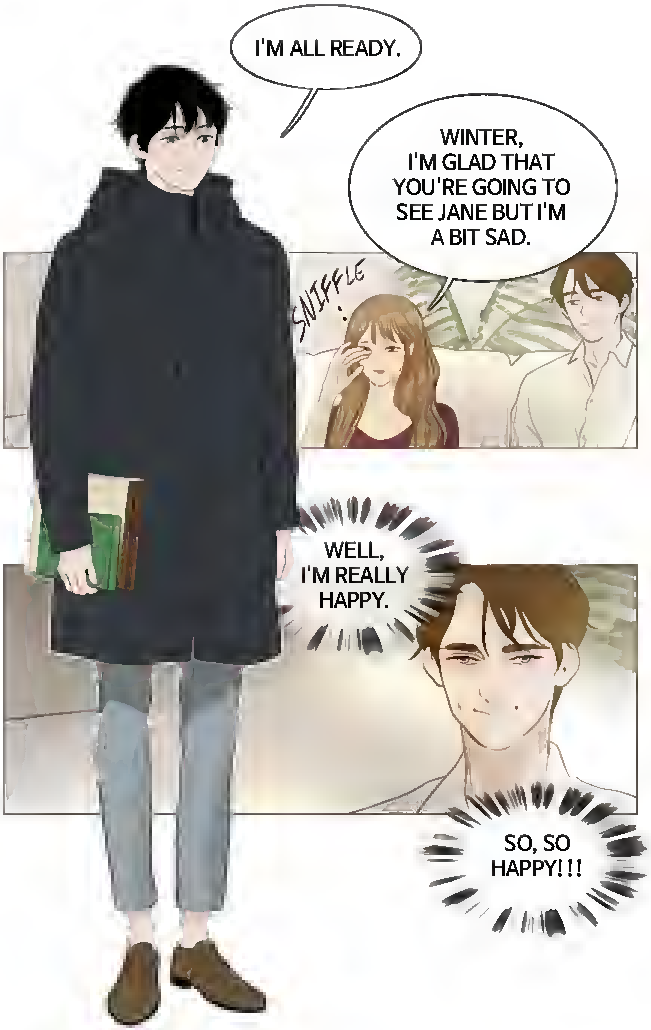
ADORA~~
ZOE~
WINTER!
ISN'T IT TIME FOR YOU TO GO BACK NOW?
DON'T YOU MISS JANE?

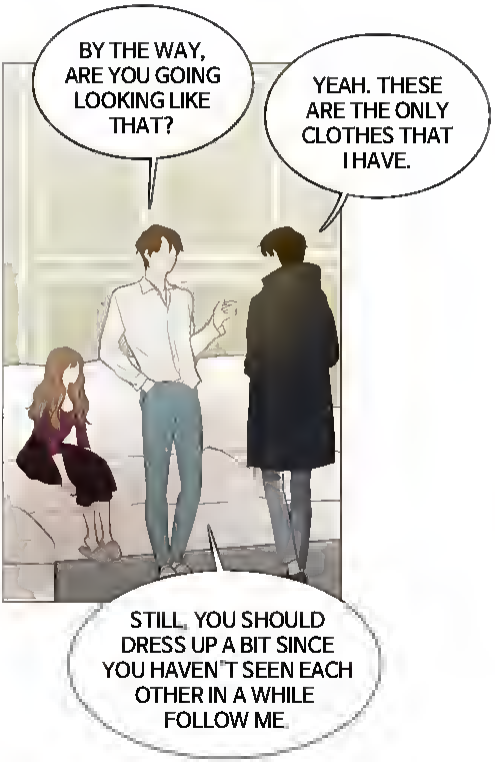
SUDDEN GLOOM...
OF COURSE I MISS HER.
SO MUCH...
DOES HE HAVE MULTIPLE PERSONALITY DISORDER?
JANE IS PROBABLY THINKING OF ME TOO. RIGHT?

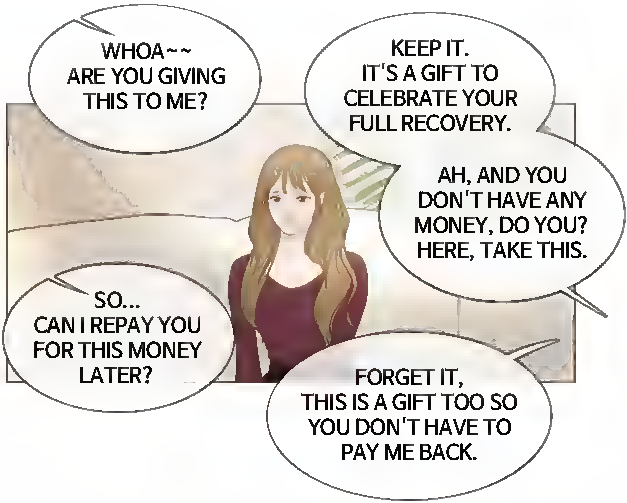
THEN YOU HAD BETTER GO.
THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO DISAPPEAR FROM THIS HOUSE.

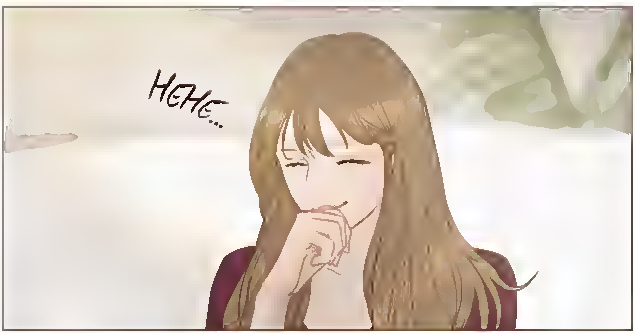
〈THE DAY THAT WINTER LEFT〉



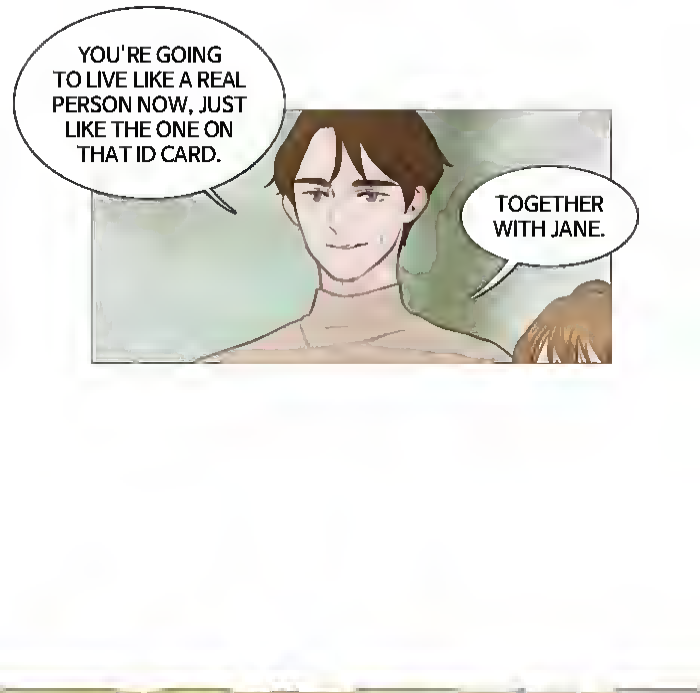

I'M ALL READY.
WINTER, I'M GLAD THAT YOU'RE GOING TO SEE JANE BUT I'M A BIT SAD.
SNIFFLE
WELL, I'M REALLY HAPPY.
SO, SO HAPPY!!!


BY THE WAY, ARE YOU GOING LOOKING LIKE THAT?
YEAH. THESE ARE THE ONLY CLOTHES THAT I HAVE.
STILL, YOU SHOULD DRESS UP A BIT SINCE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN A WHILE FOLLOW ME.


WHOA~~
ARE YOU GIVING THIS TO ME?
KEEP IT.
IT'S A GIFT TO CELEBRATE YOUR FULL RECOVERY.
AH, AND YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY, DO YOU? HERE, TAKE THIS.
SO...
CAN I REPAY YOU FOR THIS MONEY LATER?
FORGET IT,
THIS IS A GIFT TOO SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY ME BACK.


HeHe...

FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS THAT I GAVE YOU.
AND DON'T WORRY, NO ONE WILL SUSPECT THE ID CARD AND PASSPORT THAT COLIN MADE FOR YOU.


YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE LIKE A REAL PERSON NOW, JUST LIKE THE ONE ON THAT ID CARD.
TOGETHER WITH JANE.
JANE WILL PROBABLY BE STUNNED WHEN SHE SEES ME

SHE'LL DEFINITELY BE SURPRISED, AND HAPPY.
SO HURRY UP AND GO.
I HOPE THAT YOU'LL RETURN SAFELY AND DO EVERYTHING THAT YOU WANTED TO DO WITH JANE AND ROY.
MAKE SURE YOU PLANT THE SEED, TOO
SURE. TAKE CARE.
ADORA AND ZOE.

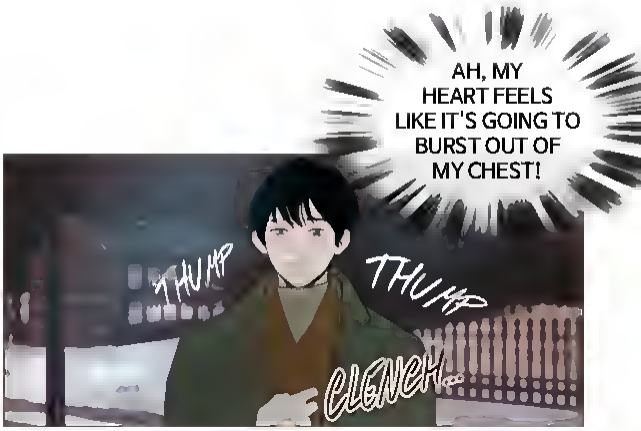
WINTER TRAVELING

PLANE RIDE

BUS RIDE

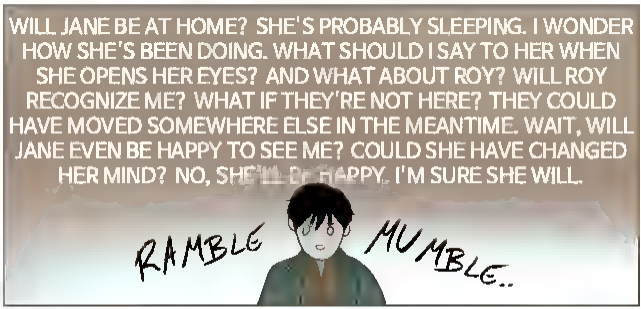
TAXI RIDE

WALKING

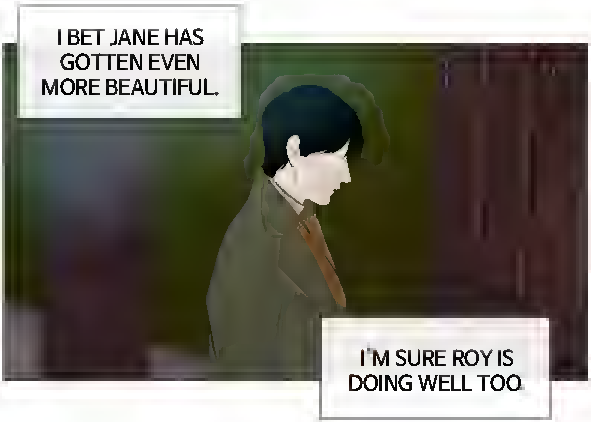

AH, MY HEART FEELS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BURST OUT OF MY CHEST!
THUMP
THUMP
CLENCH

TWIN

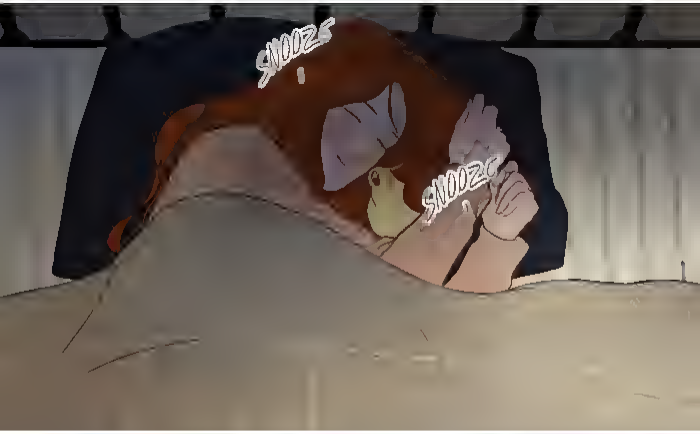
THUMP


WILL JANE BE AT HOME? SHE'S PROBABLY SLEEPING. I WONDER HOW SHE'S BEEN DOING. WHAT SHOULD I SAY TO HER WHEN SHE OPENS HER EYES? AND WHAT ABOUT ROY? WILL ROY RECOGNIZE ME? WHAT IF THEY'RE NOT HERE? THEY COULD HAVE MOVED SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THE MEANTIME. WAIT, WILL JANE EVEN BE HAPPY TO SEE ME? COULD SHE HAVE CHANGED HER MIND? NO, SHE'LL BE HAPPY. I'M SURE SHE WILL.
RAMBLE
MUMBLE..

AAAHHH!
WHISH!
WHISH


I BET JANE HAS GOTTEN EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL.
I'M SURE ROY IS DOING WELL TOO.

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THEM AND GIVE THEM A HUG.


SNOOZE
SNOOZE

CHOKE

CAREFUL..

ROY.

SEE YOU IN
A LITTLE BIT.

- END -

Winter Woods

윈 터 우 즈

©studio 숲

STORY BY COSMOS
tnvcosmos@naver.com

ART BY VAN JI
qkswltnr@naver.com

AFTERWORD

HI THERE, READERS OF WINTER WOODS.
THIS IS SCENARIO WRITER COSMOS AND ARTIST VAN JI.

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR SPENDING
THIS TIME WITH WINTER WOODS.

FIRST, WE WOULD LIKE TO ANSWER SOME OF
THE QUESTIONS THAT READERS WOULD BE CURIOUS ABOUT.

WE HAVE MOSTLY ANSWERED QUESTIONS THAT WERE
POSTED ON THE WEBTOON PAGE AND OUR BLOG.

WELL, LET'S GET STARTED!

THE FINAL EPISODE

WE HOPE THAT THIS EPILOGUE WILL SLIGHTLY
RELIEVE FEELINGS THAT THE ENDING WAS TOO SUDDEN.

ACTUALLY, ASIDE FROM THE EPILOGUE, THERE ARE STILL
TWO OR THREE SHORT EPISODES OF BACKSTORY LEFT. BUT
SINCE THESE ARE DIVIDED INTO SHORT, FRAGMENTARY STORIES,
WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO PUBLISH
THEM LATER AS A GIFT RATHER THAN INCLUDING
THEM AS PART OF THIS EPISODE.

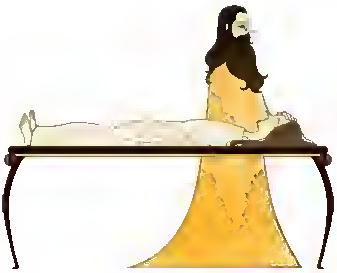
THE MEANING OF THE SEED

THE SEED MAY BE CALLED THE CATALYST
WHICH CAUSED WINTER TO HAVE EMOTIONS.

WANTING JANE TO VALUE HIM AS A PRECIOUS PERSON,
WINTER PLANTS THE SEED WHICH SHE CHERISHES IN HIS
OWN BODY. WINTER DID SO BASED ON THE VERY, VERY
ONE-DIMENSIONAL IDEA THAT HE WOULD BE PRECIOUS
TO JANE IF HE UNITES HIMSELF WITH THE SEED.

AND PERHAPS AS A RESULT OF THAT WISH,
WINTER'S HEART BEGINS BEATING FOR THE FIRST TIME.

ALTHOUGH THE SEED IS NOT A DRAMATIC ELEMENT
WHICH HEALS WINTER OR CAUSES MIRACLES,
IT IS A VERY IMPORTANT AND MYSTERIOUS OBJECT
SINCE IT AWAKENS WINTER'S EMOTIONS.



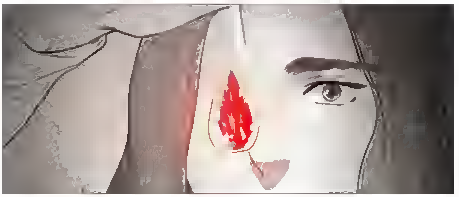
IS ZOE ALSO A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT?

WINTER AND ZOE BOTH HAD THEIR EMOTIONS AWOKEN AND CHANGED SO AS TO BE ABLE TO LOVE.

AFTER DEVELOPING HIS OWN MIND, A GREAT DEAL OF TIME WHICH HAD STOOD STILL FOR WINTER AFFECTED HIS BODY ALL AT ONCE. THE PROCESS OF RETURNING TO DUST WAS GREATLY ACCELERATED. IN OTHER WORDS, WINTER BECOMES A COMPLETE HUMAN (SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT) WHO BOTH LIVES AND DIES. THIS CAN BE SEEN AS THE RESULT OF THE ALCHEMIST'S NUMEROUS FAILURES.

HOWEVER, ZOE, WHO DID NOT UNDERGO MANY EXPERIMENTS, IS NOT A COMPLETE HUMAN. ZOE MAY HAVE DEVELOPED HIS OWN MIND, BUT HIS BODY DOES NOT CHANGE. HE LIVES FOREVER AND IS UNAFFECTED BY THE FLOW OF TIME.

WHILE HAVING HIS OWN MIND.



THE REASON THAT WINTER WAS ABLE TO SURVIVE

THINKING BACK TO PREVIOUS EPISODE WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THIS PART.

ZOE IS ABLE TO HEAL WINTER USING THE SAGE'S STONE THAT THE ALCHEMIST HAD. SINCE THAT STONE POSSESSES A TREMENDOUS POWER. WINTER AND ZOE WERE MADE FROM THAT STONE, SO HE IS ABLE TO HEAL WINTER'S BODY USING THE STONE.

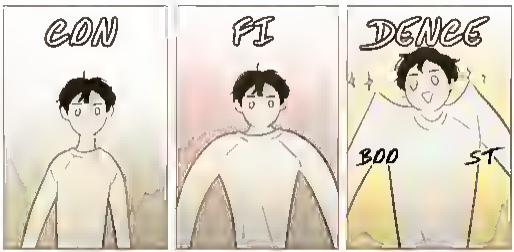
THAT SMALL STONE, SIMILAR IN SIZE TO THE SEED PLANTED IN WINTER'S CHEST, PROBABLY SLIPPED INTO THE SPOT FROM WHICH THE SEED WAS REMOVED AND IS THUMPING AWAY ALONG WITH HIS HEART.

THE RED-HAIRED BOY = ROY?

WE TRIED TO EXPRESS THE IDEA THAT PERHAPS THIS IS WHAT ROY WOULD LOOK LIKE IF HE BECAME HUMAN.

IN WINTER'S DREAM, ROY AND JANE ARE STANDING CLOSE TOGETHER AND BICKERING WHEN WINTER, STANDING OUTSIDE THE DOOR, LATER STEPS INTO THE SPACE WHERE THEY ARE AND THEN THE DREAM ENDS.

ISN'T THAT SIMILAR TO THE CURRENT ENDING?



WINTER'S EYEBROWS.

WE FEEL THAT EYEBROWS PLAY THE ROLE OF SHOWING EXACTLY WHAT A PERSON IS FEELING IN THEIR FACIAL EXPRESSION.

BUT WINTER DIDN'T HAVE EYEBROWS.
WE WANTED TO USE THAT LOOK TO REPRESENT HIS LACK OF FACIAL EXPRESSIONS (=EMOTIONS).

AFTER WINTER ENDS UP LIVING WITH JANE,
HE WANTS TO HAVE HIS OWN EYEBROWS.
THIS IS EVEN REFLECTED IN HIS DREAMS WHERE HE DOES HAVE EYEBROWS.

WHEN WINTER OBTAINS WHAT HE WANTED,
IT MEANS THAT HE IS CHANGING INTO A PERSON,
AND WHEN HE GETS EYEBROWS IN THE FINAL EPISODE,
IT SYMBOLIZES WINTER'S TRANSFORMATION INTO
A PERSON WHO NATURALLY EXPRESSES THEIR EMOTIONS.

THE MEANING OF 'WINTER WOODS'

THE TITLE CONTAINS SEVERAL MEANINGS
BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE TWO MAIN ONES.

FIRST. THE MAIN CHARACTER'S NAME.

THE NAME 'WINTER WOODS' IS THE FIRST NAME GIVEN TO WINTER BY JANE. WINTER RECEIVES THE FIRST NAME IN HIS LIFE FROM JANE. I CONSIDER NAMES TO BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT SINCE THEY'RE THE MOST BASIC ELEMENT WHICH ALLOWS YOU TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE AS AN INDIVIDUAL.

HAVING ALWAYS BEEN NAMELESS,
WHEN WINTER FINALLY ACQUIRES A NAME,
HE TAKES HIS FIRST STEP TOWARDS BECOMING A HUMAN BEING.

FIRST NAME.

FIRST STEP AS A PERSON.

THIS IS WHY A LOT OF MY OTHER WORKS,
INCLUDING WINTER WOODS, INVOLVE THE ACT OF NAMING.

SECOND. THE SEED.

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, WINTER UNITES HIMSELF
WITH THE SEED BY PLANTING IT IN HIS CHEST. LATER,
AFTER HIS TREATMENT IS COMPLETE,
HE REMOVES THE SEED FROM HIS BODY AND RETURNS TO JANE,
PUTTING THE SEED BACK IN ITS ORIGINAL GLASS BOTTLE.

WINTER WILL PROBABLY PLANT THE SEED IN
THE FOREST LATER WITH JANE. THEN THAT SEED (=WINTER)
WILL GROW TO BECOME A GREAT TREE,
WHICH WILL THEN SPREAD SEEDS AND FORM A FOREST.

THAT'S WHY THE TITLE IS 'WINTER WOODS.'

THESE ARE ALL OF THE ANSWERS THAT WE HAVE PREPARED

WINTER WOODS HAS NOW OFFICIALLY COME TO AN END

FINISHING THE WORK FEELS BITTERSWEET SINCE WE HAVE SPENT SUCH A LONG TIME CREATING WINTER WOODS. WE SEEM TO FEEL MORE DISAPPOINTED AND SAD THAN RELIEVED AND PROUD

TO THINK THAT WE WILL NO LONGER DRAW THE CHARACTERS OF 'WINTER WOODS' EVERY WEEK OR CONTINUE THE STORY THE ENDING FEELS MORE REAL AND LEAVES US FEELING EMPTY.

BACK WHEN WE UPLOADED A COMIC IN THE WEBTOON CHALLENGE SIMPLY BECAUSE WE ENJOY DRAWING AND CREATING STORIES, 'WINTER WOODS' STARTED BECAUSE WE LIKED EACH OTHER'S STORYTELLING AND ARTWORK.

WE WERE THEN LUCKY ENOUGH TO PUBLISH THE COMIC OFFICIALLY, AND WE WERE INCREDIBLY HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO SHOW 'WINTER WOODS' TO MORE READERS

BEING OUR FIRST WORK, 'WINTER WOODS' WAS DEFINITELY LACKING AND HAD MANY AWKWARD PARTS SINCE WE WERE NOT AS REFINED AT THE TIME. STILL, WE PUT OUR HEART AND SOUL INTO CREATING IT SO WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL REMEMBER IT AS A WORK OF SINCERITY.

"WINTER AND JANE, ADORA AND ZOE, AND HUBERT, SMITH, LARRY, SARAH, ROBBY, EMILY, THE ALCHEMIST, ETC. AS WE END THE STORY NOW, IT'S TIME TO LET GO OF THE CHARACTERS WHICH WERE SO BELOVED TO BOTH OUR READERS AND US "

GOODBYE. FAREWELL. TAKE CARE

AND TO ALL OF OUR WARM-HEARTED, DEVOTED READERS, AS WELL AS TO THE LINE WEBTOON DIRECTORS WHO GAVE US A PLACE TO PUBLISH OUR WORK LIKE THIS AND TOOK CARE OF US, NOVICE WEBTOON ARTISTS, WE EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE

WE HOPE TO MEET YOU ALL AGAIN IN A MORE MATURE WORK.

THANK YOU